

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SEOUL 3371

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GREEN' S CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GREEN WAS GREETED EXTREMELY CORDIALLY BY PRESIDENT PARK WHO THANKED HIM FOR PAST COOPERATION. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION, THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED THE FIRM OPINION THAT NORTH- SOUTH TALKS MUST AND WILL CONTINUE BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA NEEDED TO COME UP WITH A NEW LONG RANGE FOREIGN POLICY WHICH HE DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HAD BEEN PASSED TO US RECENTLY THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

1. I TOOK AMBASSADOR GREEN TO CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK ON MAY 26. PARK RECEIVED GREEN WITH EXTRAORDINARY CORDIALITY FOR ONE HOUR AND TWENTY MINUTES. AT THE OUTSET HE THANKED GREEN FOR HIS PAST COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF KOREA IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA SINCE THE NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN OFFICE. PRESIDENT PARK SOUGHT AND RECEIVED AMBASSADOR GREEN' S VIEWS AS TO THE FUTURE FOREIGN POLICY LIKELY TO BE PURSUED BY MR. WHITLAM. PARK SAID HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA OF FOREIGN MINISTER KIM WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE EFFECTED BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF KOREA' S PROBLEMS ON THE PART OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.

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2. DISCUSSION TURNED TO THE TALKS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA. PARK SAID HE HAD ALWAYS ANTICIPATED THE SOUTH- NORTH TALKS WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT AFTER CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE THE DIFFERENCES WERE FOUND TO BE EVEN GREATER. NEVERTHELESS, THE TALKS CANNOT BE STOPPED ALTHOUGH NO EARLY RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED. THEY WOULD HAVE TO PROCEED WITH PATIENCE NO MATTER HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE.

3. THE PRESIDENT THEN SAID THAT WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND THE DIRECTION OF KOREA'S LONG RANGE FOREIGN POLICY, IT WAS NECESSARY TO COME UP WITH A NEW APPROACH. AS WE KNEW, THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THIS QUESTION. THE NEW POLICY WOULD BE DERIVED FROM THE THOUGHT THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH MUST BE CONTINUED AS PART OF THE EFFORT TO DENY NORTH KOREA THE CHANCE OF RESUMING HOSTILE ACTS AGAINST SOUTH KOREA. ADDITIONALLY THE ROK COULD NOT AFFORD TO DISAPPOINT THEIR PEOPLE ON THE PROSPECTS FOR REUNIFICATION. REUNIFICATION MUST CONTINUE TO BE A NATIONAL GOAL BUT THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE LED TO BELIEVE THAT IT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. WITH THIS IN MIND THE ROKG WAS DEVELOPING NEW THOUGHTS REGARDING ITS FOREIGN POLICY. ANY CHANGES WOULD, OF COURSE, BE DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH U. S. POLICY BECAUSE OF THE CLOSENESS OF OUR IDEAS. THEY THEREFORE WISHED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH US AND THE PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO US FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION. GREEN SAID THESE MATTERS WERE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON AND OUR VIEWS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN DUE COURSE. WE HAVE HAD SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT CERTAINLY THESE NEW INITIATIVES WOULD BE ATTRACTIVE WORLDWIDE. THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSALITY WHICH WAS INVOLVED WAS APPEALING, REALISTIC AND IN CONFORMITY WITH GENERAL OPINION. IT WILL BE VIEWED AS A CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE ON THE PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

5. PRESIDENT PARK SAID EARLIER EFFORTS BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO HOLD OFF NORTH KOREAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAD SUCCEEDED FOR A TIME BUT CHANGES IN THE SITUATION INTERNATIONALLY WERE SUCH THAT THIS POLICY COULD NO LONGER BE PURSUED. GREEN ASKED THE PRESIDENT WHAT REACTION HE ANTICIPATED IN SOUTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREA TO THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN POLICY. PARK REPLIED THAT IN THE SOUTH THERE MAY BE SOME SURPRISE THE CHANGES HAD COME SO SOON BUT THE IDEAS WERE NOT NEW AND HAD ALREADY BEEN ANTICIPATED BY SOME

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PEOPLE. HE WAS CONVINCED HE WOULD GET THE UNDERSTANDING OF HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO BETTER ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE. IN NORTH KOREA HE EXPECTED THE INITIAL REACTION WOULD BE FOR PYONGYANG TO MAINTAIN ITS DEMAND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF U. S. FORCES AS A PRE- REQUISITE FOR ANYTHING. THEY WOULD TEND NEITHER TO SUPPORT NOR OBJECT TO THE ROK PROPOSALS BUT RATHER TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN DEMANDS. THERE REALLY IS NO REASON FOR THE NORTH TO

OBJECT CONSIDERING THAT THE ROKG IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE DEACTIVATION OF UNCURK, SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE UN DEBATE AND NORTH KOREAN ADMISSION TO UN ORGANIZATIONS. BUT THE NORTH COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO FAVOR ANY INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE SOUTH SO THAT THE INITIAL REACTION WOULD NOT BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEW PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THAT MEANTIME, WITH THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES AND PERHAPS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF COMMUNIST CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, WE COULD PERHAPS PERSUADE THE NORTH TO GO ALONG WITH THE BASIC THRUST OF THE PROPOSALS.

6. GREEN ASKED IF PARK BELIEVED THAT NORTH KOREA MIGHT ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS. PARK SAID THAT OSTENSIBLY NORTH KOREA WOULD OPPOSE DUAL MEMBERSHIP BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS A TRUE EXPRESSION OF THEIR BASIC POSITION. HE COULD IMAGINE A SITUATION WHERE THERE WOULD BE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SENTIMENT FOR SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION TO THE UN WHICH NORTH KOREANS WOULD FIND HARD TO REJECT. WE ASKED THE PRESIDENT HOW HE VISUALIZED THE USE OF THE PRC AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE SITUATION? PARK SAID THE COMMUNISTS HAD ALWAYS WANTED SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE DEBATE WHICH WE HAD OPPOSED. THE NEW PROPOSAL CALLS FOR SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION. THIS WOULD ALLOW FOR EITHER FREE WORLD OR COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO FAVOR SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION IF THEY WERE SO INCLINED. ALTHOUGH HE CONSIDERED THIS ONLY A HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITY, IN HIS MIND THE SOVIET UNION OR COMMUNIST CHINA MIGHT FEEL THAT SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION IS ADVANTAGEOUS AND THEN USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSITION. IT SHOULD BE EASIER FOR NORTH KOREA TO ACCEPT, EXPECIALLY SINCE SOUTH KOREA WOULD HAVE ALREADY CHANGED ITS POSITION AND CONCEDED SIMULTANEOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE UN DEBATE.

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